



PRAHLAD

A TALE OF DEVOTION FROM THE BHAGAWAT PURANA

Vol 537





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HIRANYAKASHIPU'S BROTHER HIRANYAKSHA HAD BEEN SLAIN BY VISHNU.

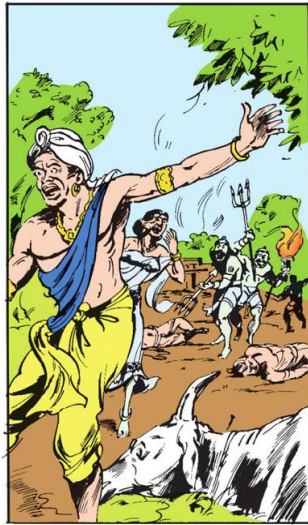


GO TO EARTH, MY BROTHERS,
AND CRUSH ALL THOSE
WHO WORSHIP
VISHNU.



THE ASURAS, BY NATURE FOND
OF OPPRESSING OTHERS, JOYFULLY
OBEYED THE COMMAND.





WHILE THE ASURAS WERE BUSY HARASSING THE DEVOTEES OF VISHNU,
THE GODS WENT ABOUT PROTECTING THEM.

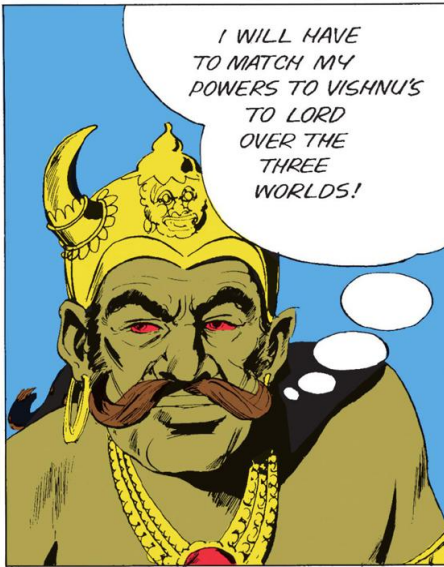


THE ASURAS RETURNED TO
HIRANYAKASHIPU.

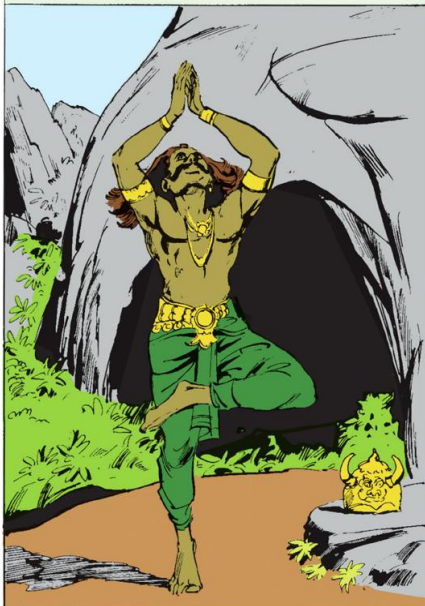
LORD! WE CANNOT
CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS.
THE SERVANTS OF VISHNU
THWART OUR EFFORTS.



I WILL HAVE
TO MATCH MY
POWERS TO VISHNU'S
TO LORD
OVER THE
THREE
WORLDS!



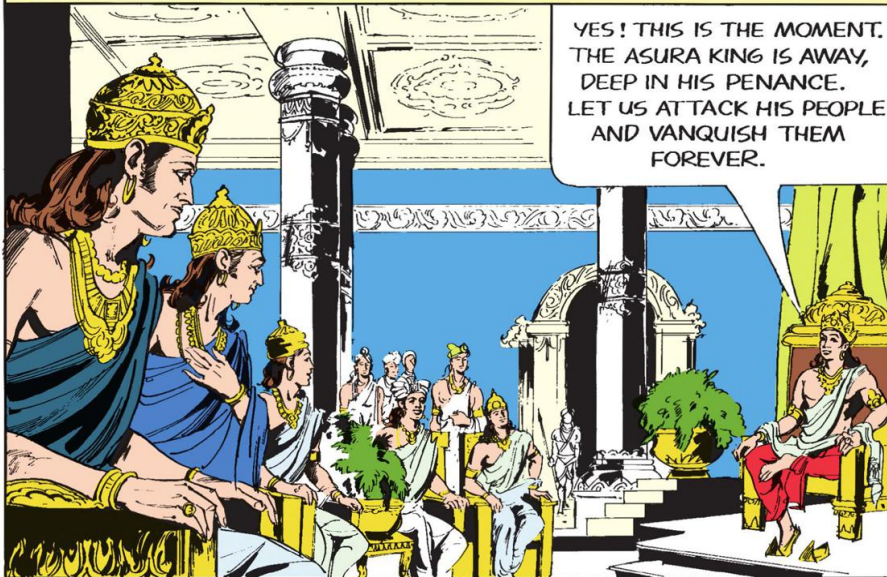
SO HE BEGAN TO PERFORM
SEVERE PENANCES.



WHEN THE GODS FOUND THAT VISHNU'S
DEVOTEES NO LONGER NEEDED THEIR
PROTECTION THEY RETURNED TO
THEIR HEAVENLY ABODE.



THERE THEY HELD COUNCIL.



YES! THIS IS THE MOMENT.
THE ASURA KING IS AWAY,
DEEP IN HIS PENANCE.
LET US ATTACK HIS PEOPLE
AND VANQUISH THEM
FOREVER.

THE ASURAS WERE PANIC-
STRICKEN.

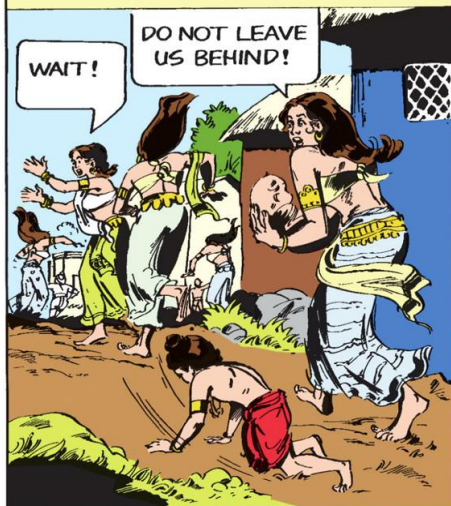
THE GODS ARE PLANNING
TO ATTACK US. WITHOUT
OUR LORD WE ARE
HELPLESS.



FLEE!

FLEE!

IN THEIR HASTE AND ANXIETY TO
SAVE THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY DID NOT
BOTHER TO TAKE EVEN THEIR WIVES,
CATTLE OR MONEY.



WAIT!

DO NOT LEAVE
US BEHIND!

THE GODS RANSACKED THE ASURA CITY AND DESTROYED HIRANYA-KASHIPU'S PALACE.



AH! I HAVE THE GREATEST
BOOTY OF THE ASURAS -
HIRANYAKASHIPU'S QUEEN.

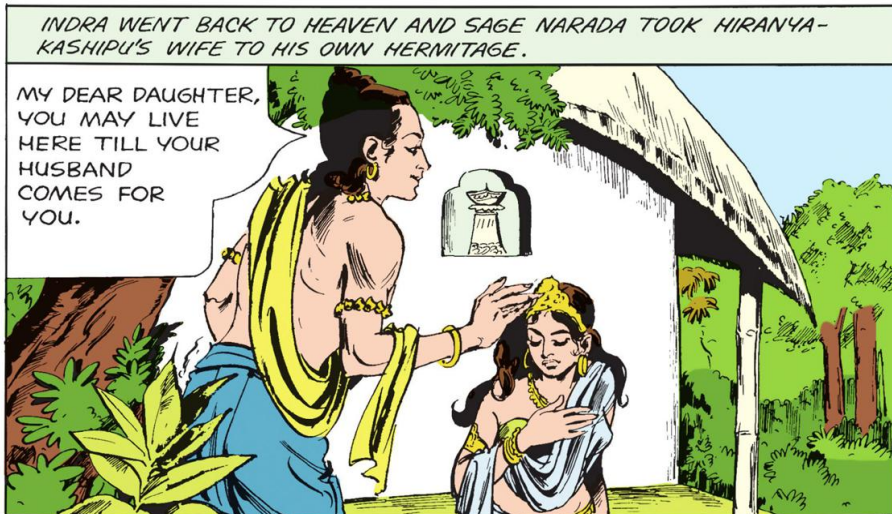
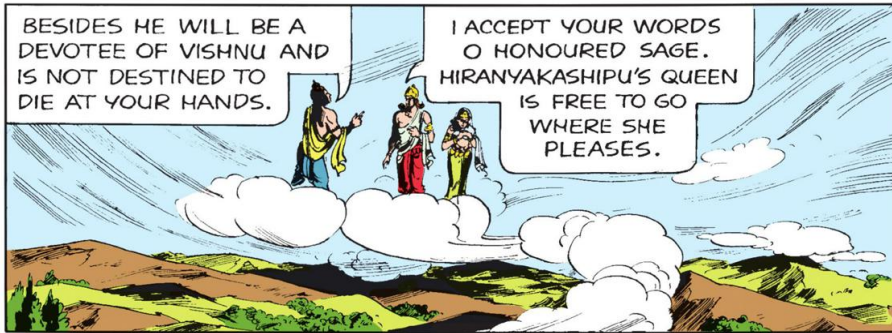
WHILE INDRA WAS TRANSPORTING HER
TO HEAVEN, HE MET SAGE NARADA.

WAIT! YOU SHOULD NOT
CARRY OFF THIS GUILTLESS
QUEEN, THE CHASTE WIFE
OF ANOTHER.



SHE IS GOING TO BE THE
MOTHER OF HIRANYA-
KASHIPU'S SON.
SHE SHALL BE WITH
ME TILL THE
CHILD IS BORN!





SHE LIVED IN THE ASHRAM OF THE GREAT SAGE AND LEARNED ABOUT RELIGION AND THE GLORY OF VISHNU FROM HIM. THE CHILD WITHIN HER, PRAHLAD, TOO, ABSORBED ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE.

VISHNU IS THE SOUL OF ALL CREATED THINGS AND IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE.



IN THE MEANWHILE, WHEN INDRA REACHED HEAVEN...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HIRANYAKASHIPU'S AUSTERITIES ARE SCORCHING THE THREE WORLDS.



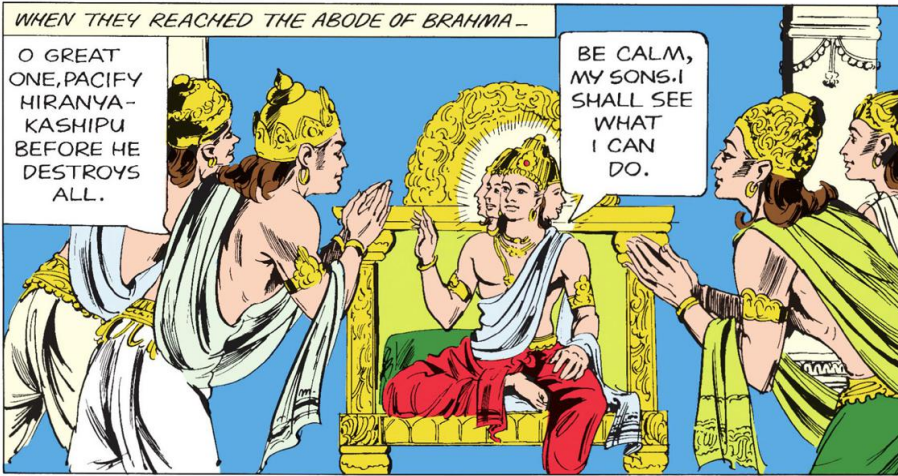
QUICK! LET US GO TO BRAHMA, OUR CREATOR.



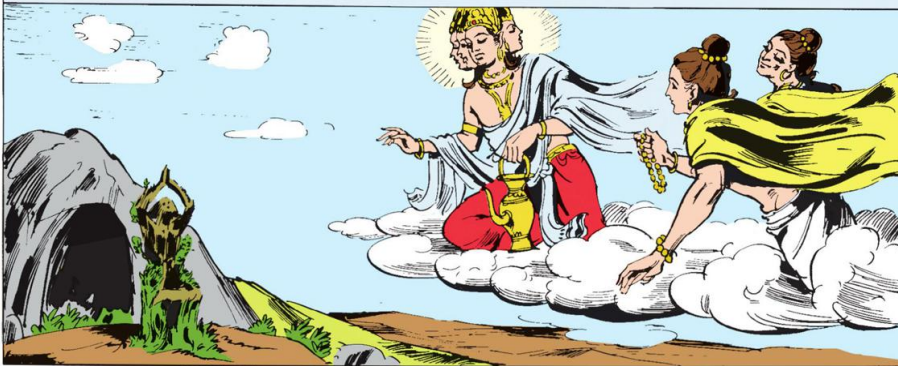
WHEN THEY REACHED THE ABODE OF BRAHMA—

O GREAT
ONE, PACIFY
HIRANYA-
KASHIPU
BEFORE HE
DESTROYS
ALL.

BE CALM,
MY SONS. I
SHALL SEE
WHAT
I CAN
DO.



THE MIGHTY BRAHMA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CELESTIAL SAGES, WENT
TO HIRANYAKASHIPU'S HERMITAGE.



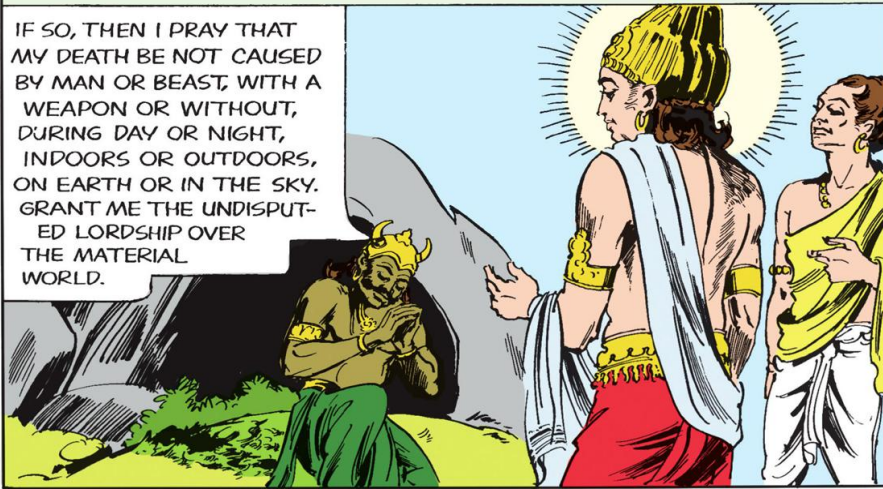
BRAHMA WAS
ASTONISHED BY
THE SIGHT.

ARISE HIRANYA-
KASHIPU. ANY BOON
THAT YOU ASK OF ME
SHALL BE YOURS.



AS SOON AS THE DROPS OF BRAHMA'S HOLY WATER TOUCHED HIM, HIRANYAKASHIPU CAME OUT OF HIS TRANCE AND SALUTED BRAHMA.

IF SO, THEN I PRAY THAT MY DEATH BE NOT CAUSED BY MAN OR BEAST, WITH A WEAPON OR WITHOUT, DURING DAY OR NIGHT, INDOORS OR OUTDOORS, ON EARTH OR IN THE SKY. GRANT ME THE UNDISPUTED LORDSHIP OVER THE MATERIAL WORLD.



MY SON! THE BOONS YOU HAVE ASKED OF ME ARE OBTAINED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. YET I GRANT THEM TO YOU.



BRAHMA DEPARTED AND HIRANYAKASHIPU WAS OVERJOYED.

HIRANYAKASHIPU BROUGHT HIS WIFE BACK TO THEIR CITY WHERE PRAHLAD WAS BORN.

MY SUCCESSOR!
YOU SHALL
VANQUISH
THE
GODS.



HIRANYAKASHIPU, WITH HIS NEW POWERS, RENEWED HIS HOSTILITIES AGAINST VISHNU AND HIS FOLLOWERS.



HE DROVE THE GODS OUT OF THEIR ABODE AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF IN HEAVEN.



ALL THE GODS IN HEAVEN EXCEPT BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA, BEGAN TO WORSHIP THE INTOXICATED HIRANYAKASHIPU.



AT LAST THE OPPRESSED GODS AND DEVOTEES OF VISHNU APPEALED TO HIM.



AFTER A FEW DAYS...

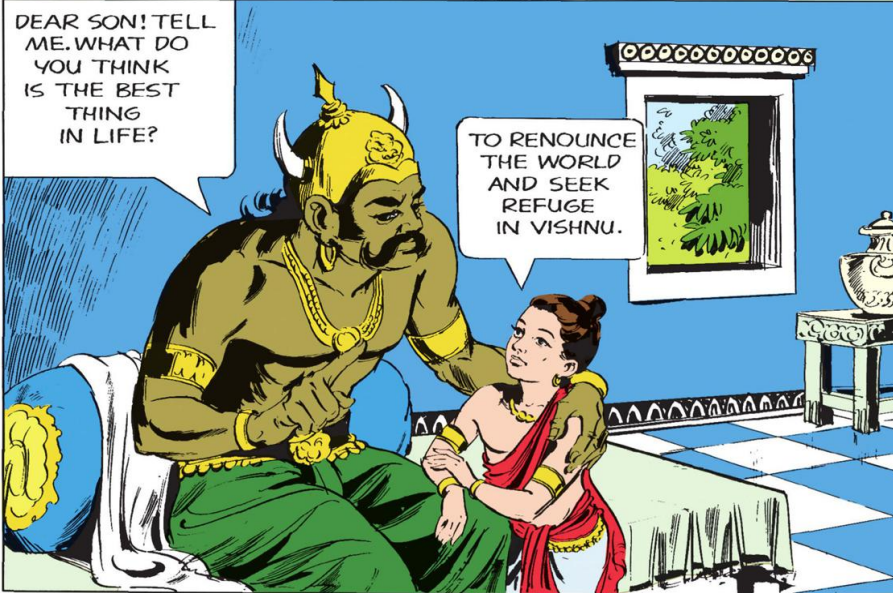


THE CELESTIALS WENT AWAY CONSIDERING THE ASURAS AS ALREADY VANQUISHED.

PRAHLAD IN THE MEANWHILE WAS GROWING UP AND WAS HIRANYAKASHIPU'S DELIGHT. ONE DAY—

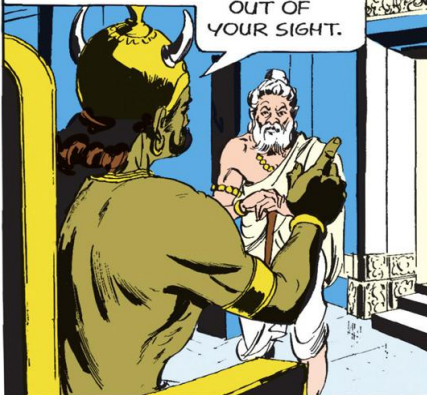
DEAR SON! TELL ME. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST THING IN LIFE?

TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD AND SEEK REFUGE IN VISHNU.



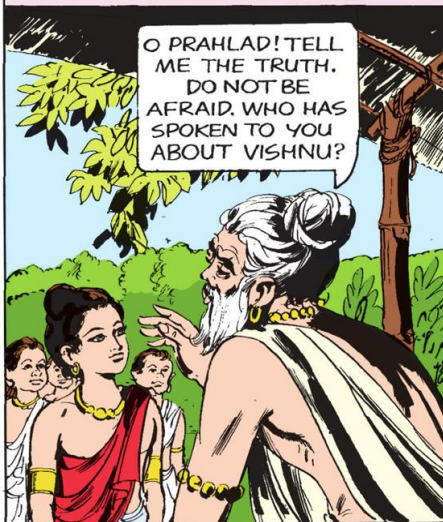
HIRANYAKASHIPU LAUGHED. THEN HE CALLED HIS SON'S TEACHER TO HIM.

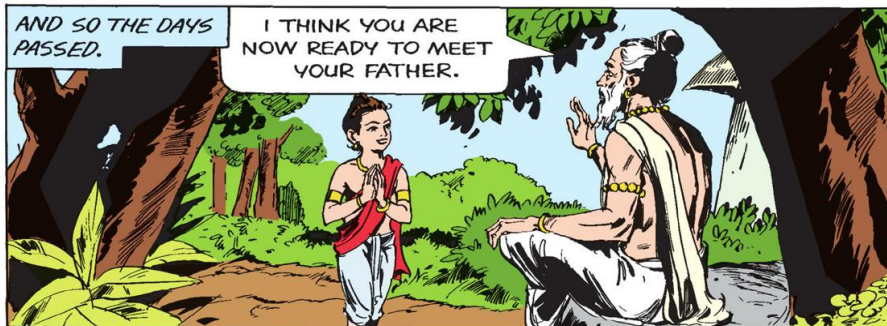
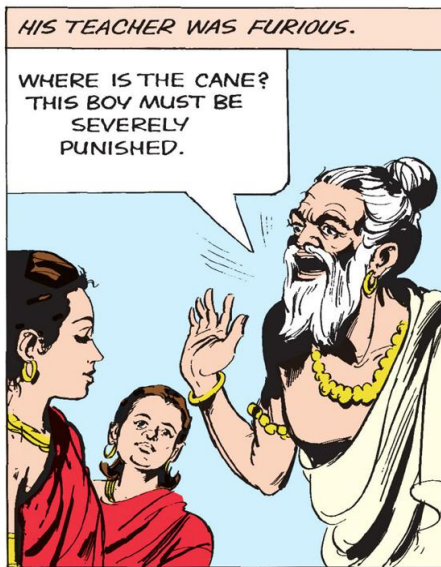
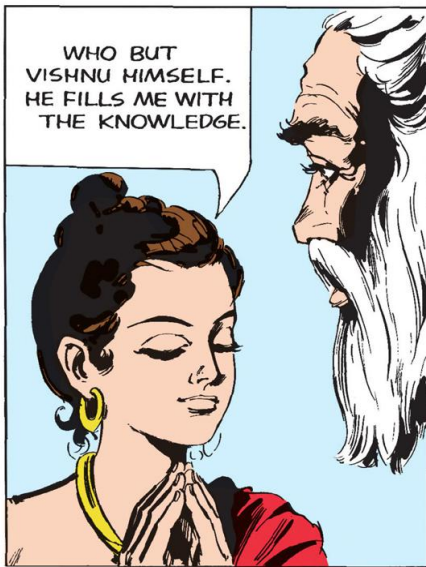
GUARD HIM CLOSELY. I THINK THAT THE FOLLOWERS OF VISHNU ARE SECRETLY INFLUENCING HIM. DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.

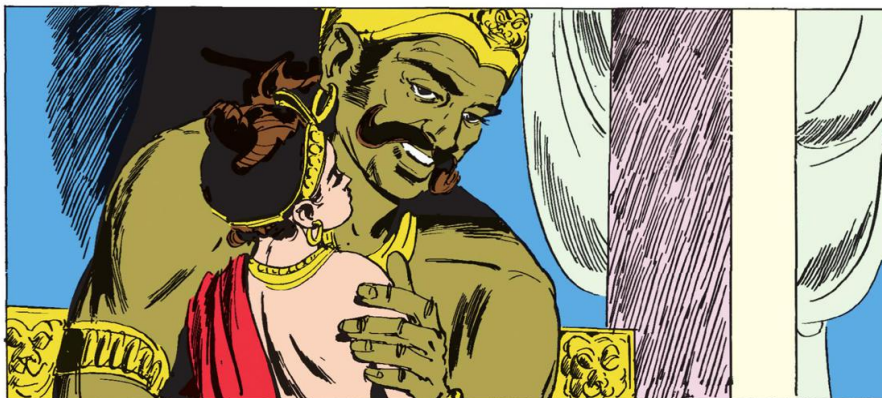
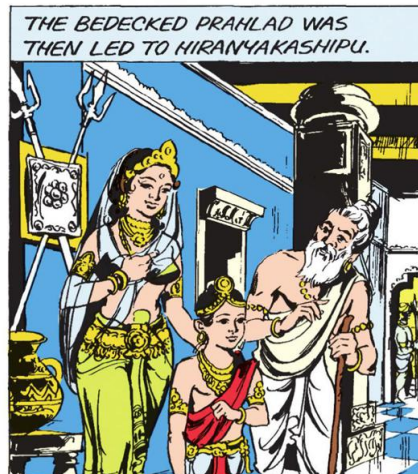
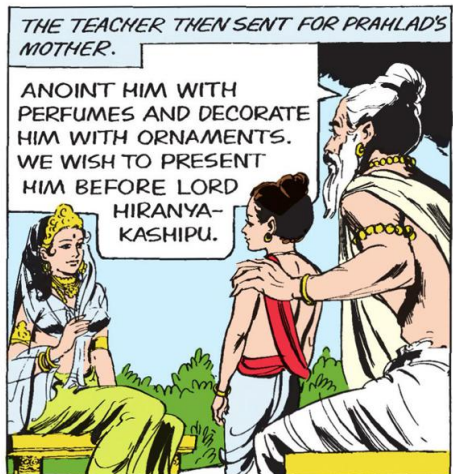


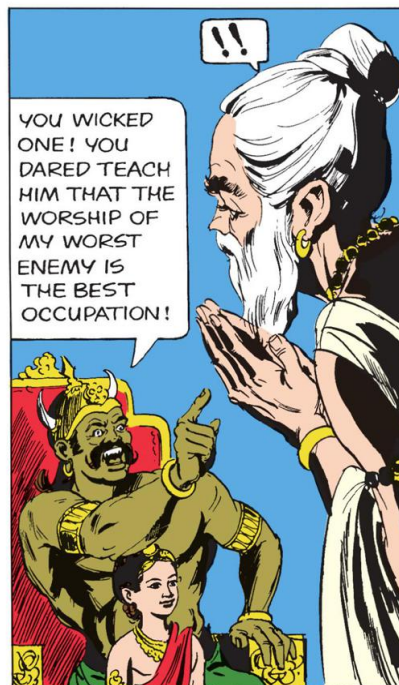
PRAHLAD WENT TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF HIS TEACHER.

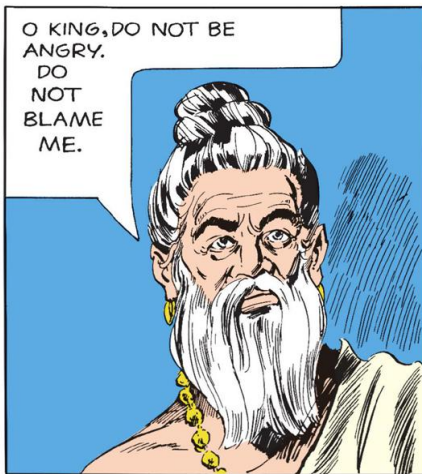
O PRAHLAD! TELL ME THE TRUTH. DO NOT BE AFRAID. WHO HAS SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT VISHNU?









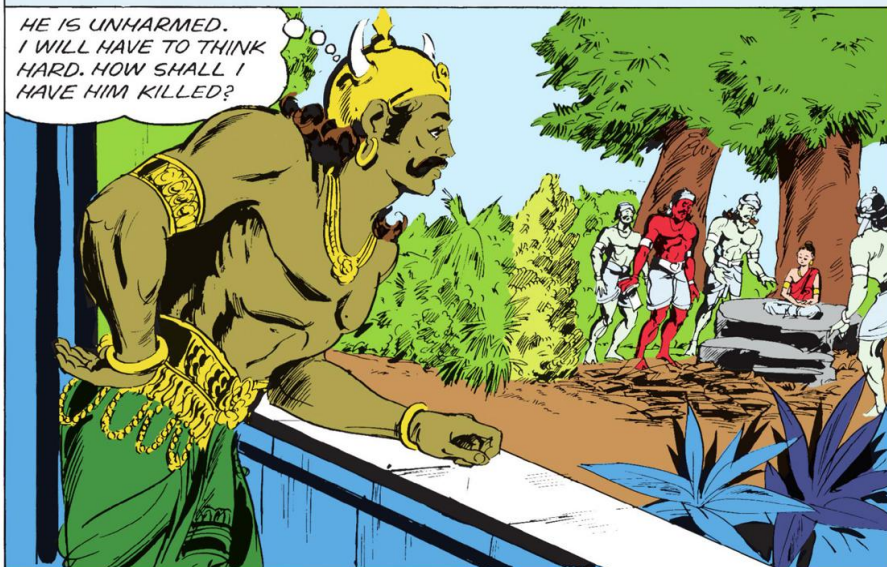




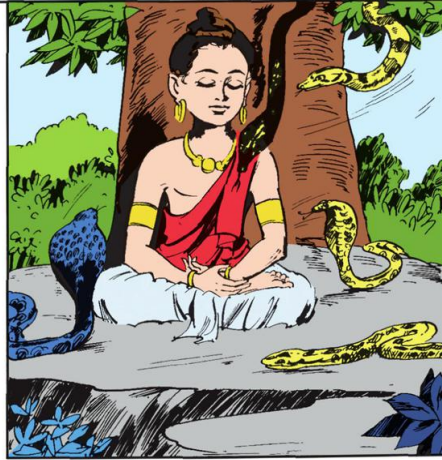
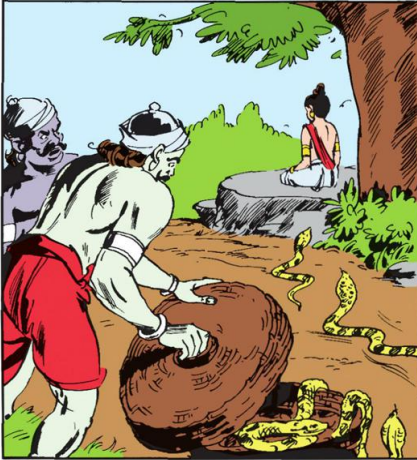
THUS COMMANDED BY HIRANYAKASHIPU, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO ATTACK PRAHLAD.



BUT THEIR STROKES WERE OF NO AVAIL FOR PRAHLAD WAS DEEPLY ENGROSSED IN HIS ADORATION OF VISHNU.



HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD THE MOST DEADLY SERPENTS BROUGHT. THEY WERE LET LOOSE ON PRAHLAD. BUT THEIR FANGS TURNED IMPOTENT.



HIRANYAKASHIPU THEN CALLED FOR MIGHTY ELEPHANTS AND MADE THEM TRAMPLE UPON PRAHLAD. BUT ONCE AGAIN IT WAS THE ELEPHANTS THAT WERE INJURED.



THEN HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM
PUSHED OFF A CLIFF AND...

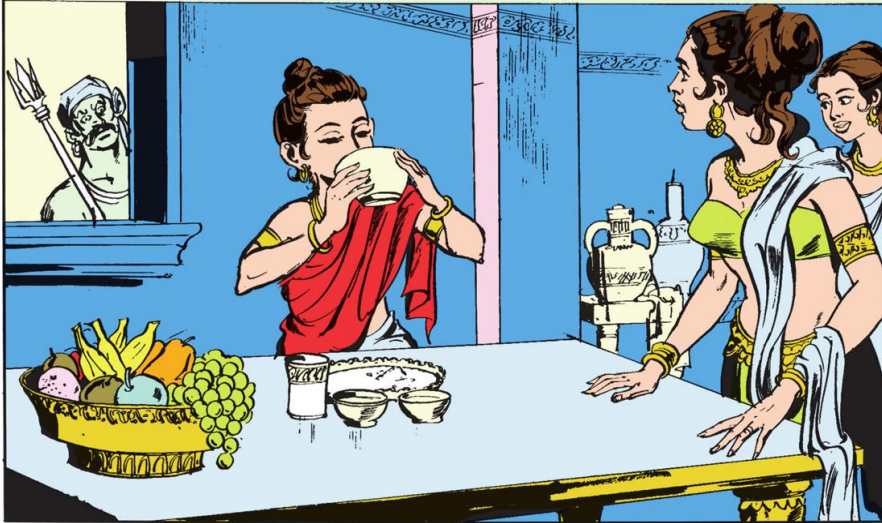


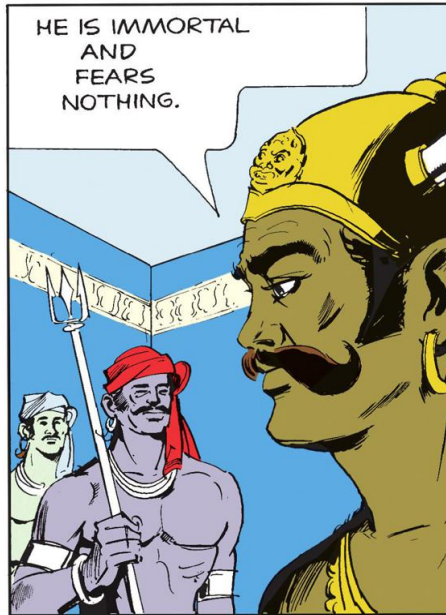
... THROWN INTO A BLAZING FIRE.



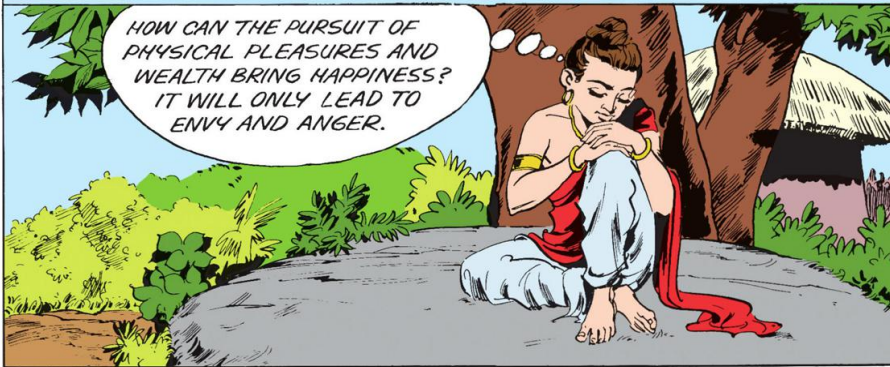
BUT NOT A HAIR ON PRAHLAD'S
HEAD WAS SINGED.

IN DESPERATION HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM FED WITH A DEADLY POISON
BUT IT TURNED INTO NECTAR IN PRAHLAD'S MOUTH.

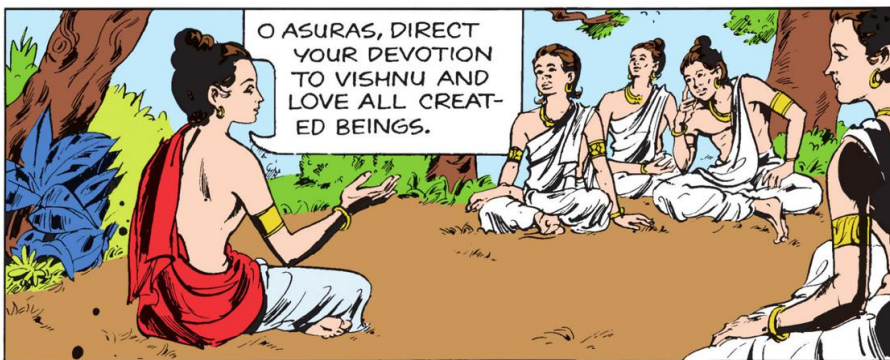


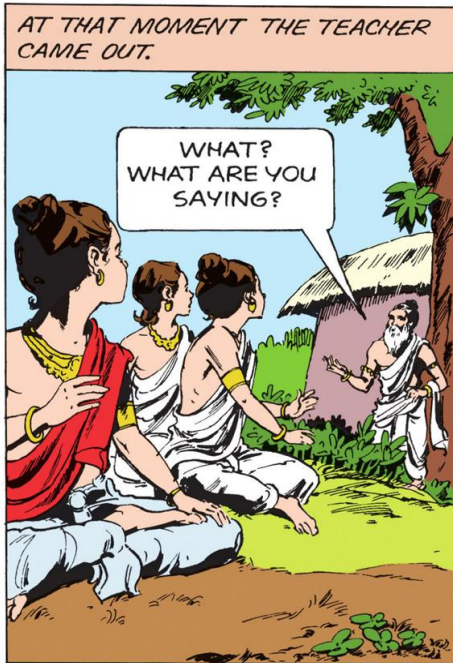
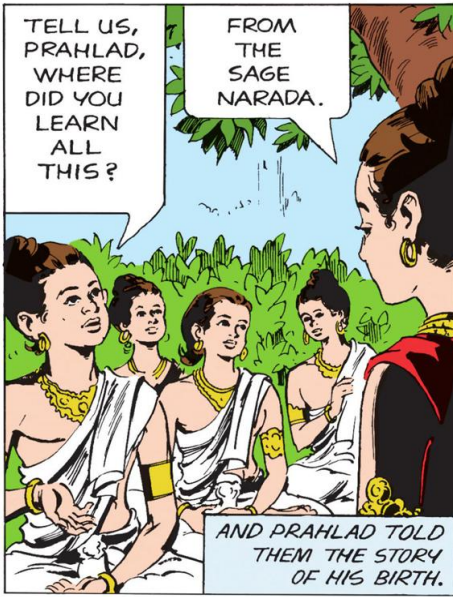


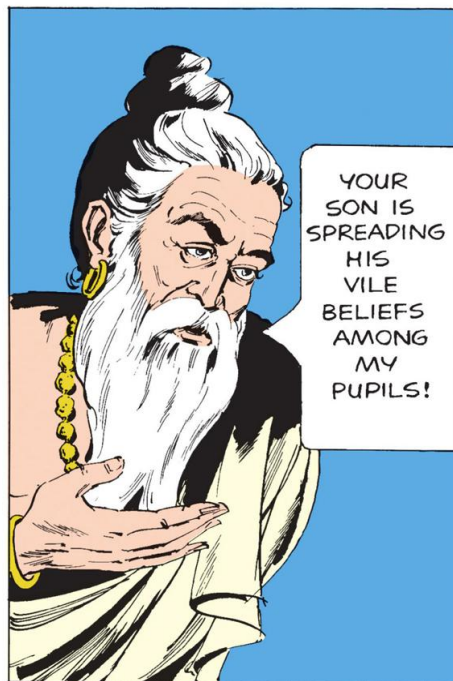
THIS TIME THE TEACHER TRIED TO GET PRAHLAD INTERESTED IN THE MEANS FOR ACQUIRING WEALTH AND PHYSICAL PLEASURES, BUT...



WHILE PRAHLAD WAS ENGAGED IN SUCH THOUGHTS, OTHER PUPILS CAME AND JOINED HIM.

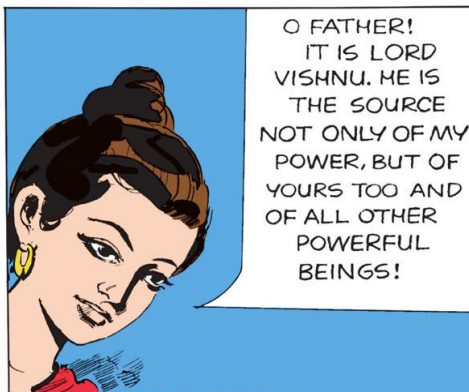




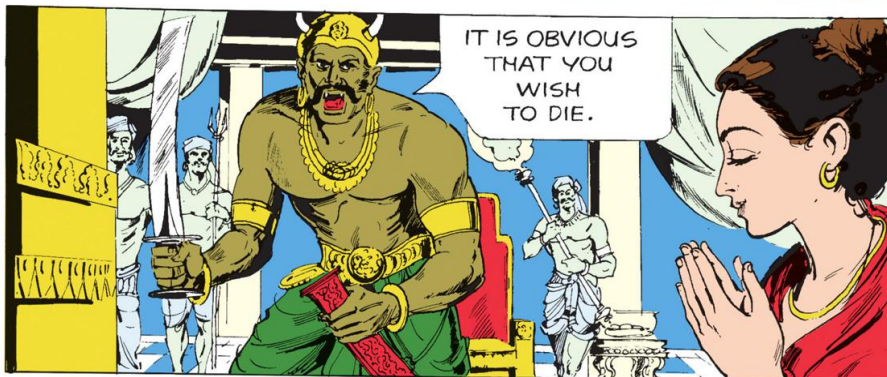




THE RULERS OF
THE THREE WORLDS
QUAKE
BEFORE ME.
BUT SPEAK
UP, WHAT
IS THE
SOURCE OF
YOUR
POWER?



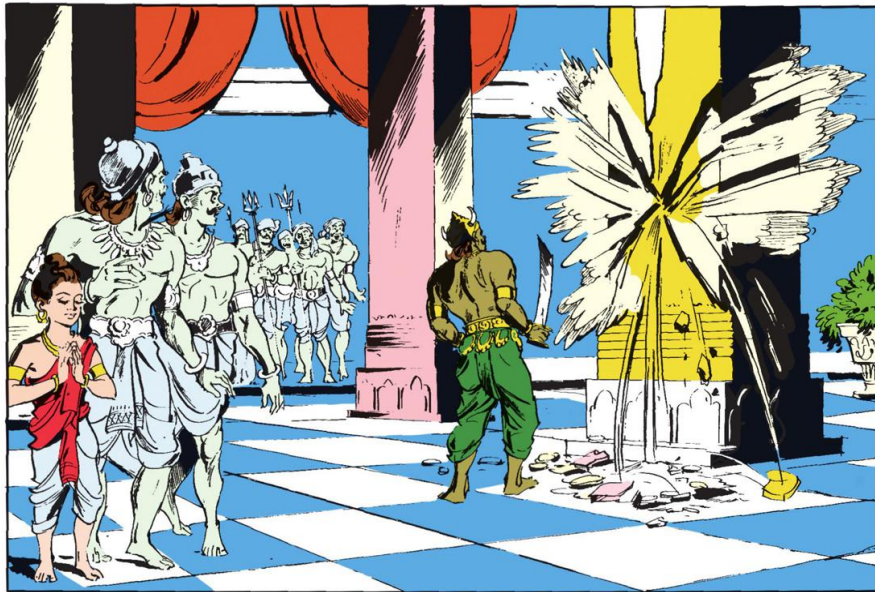
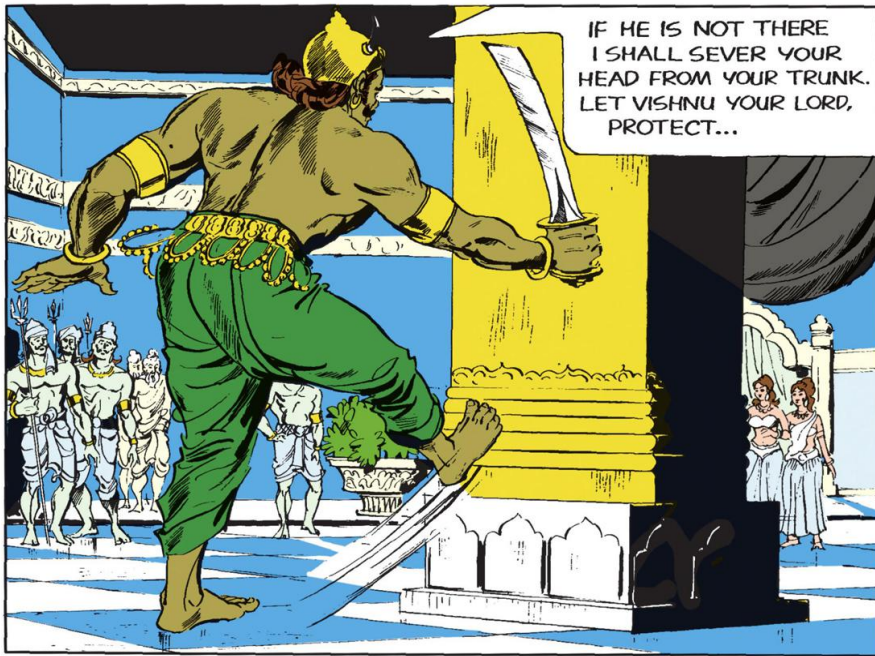
O FATHER!
IT IS LORD
VISHNU. HE IS
THE SOURCE
NOT ONLY OF MY
POWER, BUT OF
YOURS TOO AND
OF ALL OTHER
POWERFUL
BEINGS!



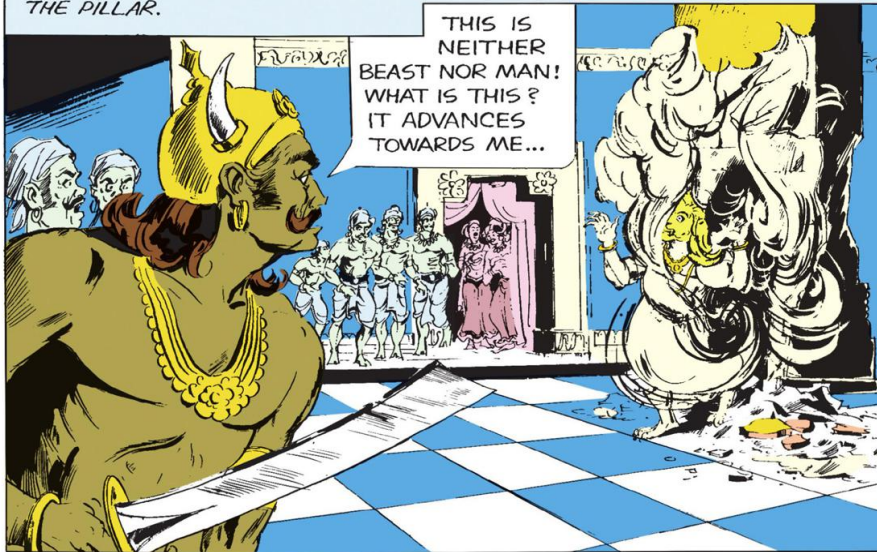
IT IS OBVIOUS
THAT YOU
WISH
TO DIE.



WHERE IS HE? IF HE IS
EVERYWHERE WHY IS HE
NOT IN THIS PILLAR?



AND LO! LORD VISHNU IN THE FORM OF *NARA-SIMHA EMERGED FROM THE PILLAR.



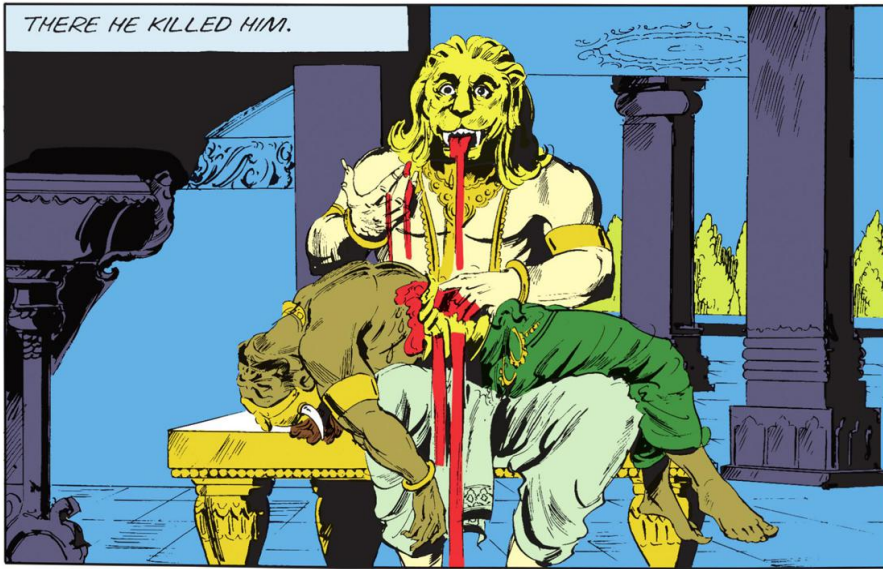
NARA-SIMHA CAUGHT HIRANYA-KASHIPU AND...



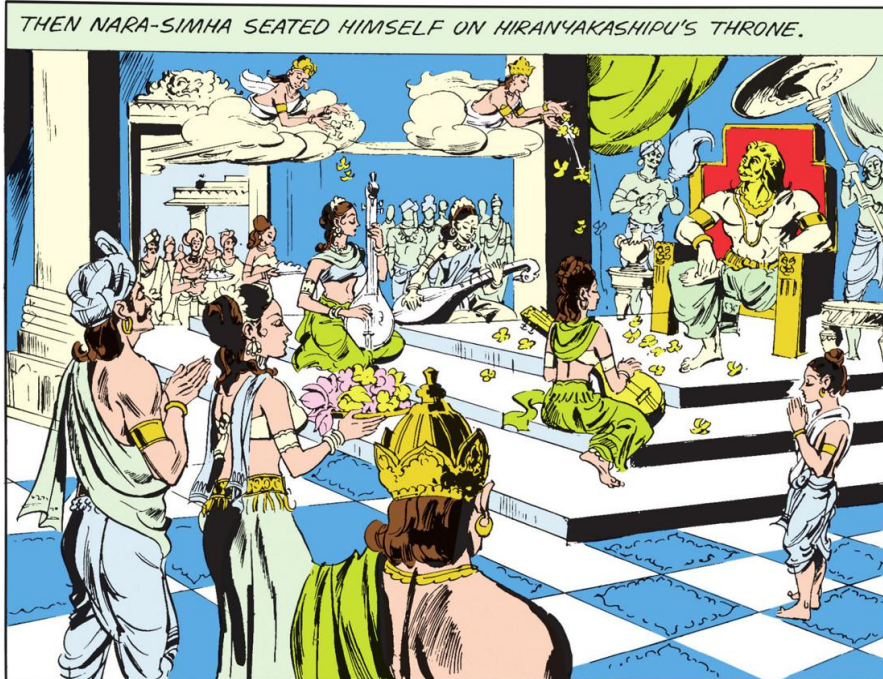
...CARRIED HIM TO THE THRESHOLD OF THE COURTROOM.



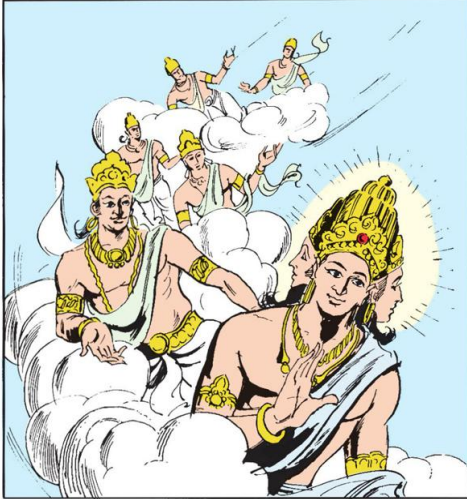
THERE HE KILLED HIM.



THEN NARA-SIMHA SEATED HIMSELF ON HIRANYAKASHIPU'S THRONE.



BRAHMA AND INDRA CAME TO PAY HOMAGE TO HIM.



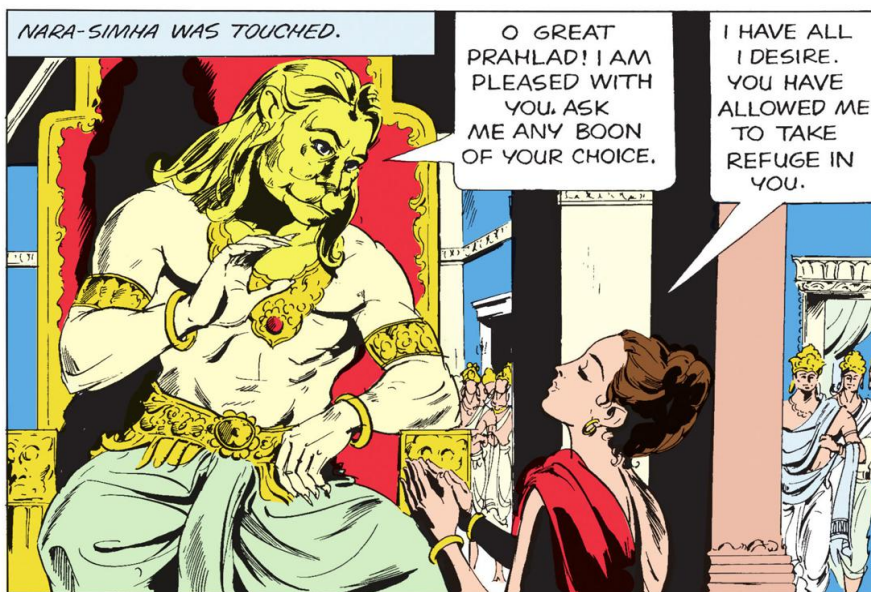
BUT WERE WAR4 OF APPROACH-
ING VISHNU IN THIS TERRIFYING
ASPECT.



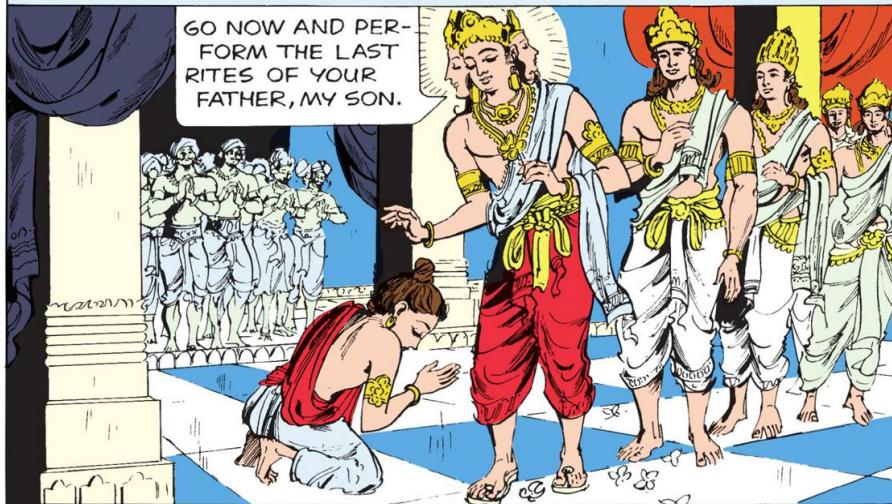
THEN BRAHMA WENT TO PRAHLAD
WHO WAS STANDING
NEARBY.

O SON APPROACH
AND
PROPIATE
THE
LORD!

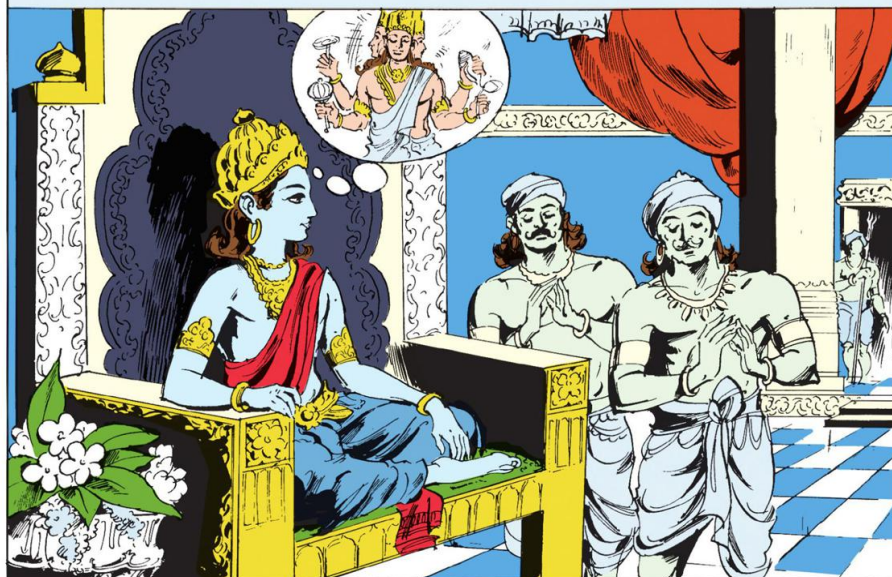




NARA-SIMHA VANISHED. AND PRAHLAD BOWED TO BRAHMA AND TO THE OTHER CELESTIALS.



AFTER THE LAST RITES OF HIS FATHER WERE OVER, THE GODS WITH THE HELP OF THE ASURAS INSTALLED PRAHLAD ON THE THRONE AS LORD OF THE ASURAS. AND HE RULED WISELY AND WELL FOR MANY YEARS.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayyappa Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrahasa Dasharatha Dhruva And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Vritra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Karttikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Naia Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Pralhad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parjatala Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syamantaka Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati</p> <p>VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Har Gobind Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaprakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. 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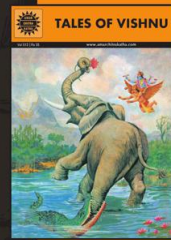
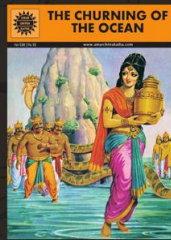
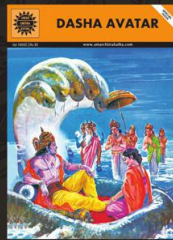
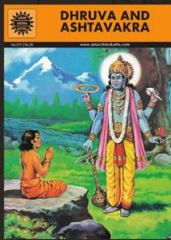


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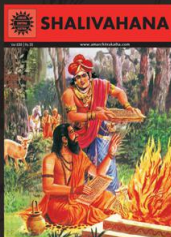
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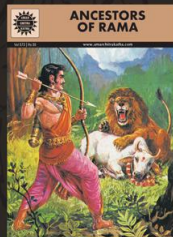
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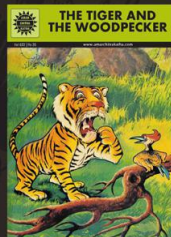
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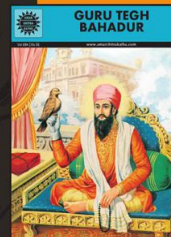
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